

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the purpose of the National Co-operative Bank; and

(c) the other steps proposed for easy access of the financial resources to various agricultural co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Credit Review Committee (ACRC) had envisaged an institution at national level in cooperative banking system to act as a spokesman of the cooperative banks and to function as a national balancing centre for the surpluses of the State system. Following these recommendations, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) had proposed setting up of a National Cooperative Bank. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggested some fundamental modifications and forwarded the proposal to the Government. The matter has been under examination of the Government meanwhile, in order to strengthen and revitalise the cooperative credit structure, Government had constituted a Task Force under Shri Jagdish Kapoor, Deputy Governor of RBI to study the functioning of cooperative banks in the country and to suggest measures for their restructuring and strengthening in order to ensure adequate and efficient flow of credit through them. The report of the task force has been received recently and is under examination.

(c) Besides their own deposits, share capital and reserves, the cooperative banks have access to refinance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**Financial aid for Road Projects in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**

\*226. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from various States like Gujarat, M.P. and Maharashtra for adequate finances and material help for upgrading the National Highways to strengthen road infrastructure in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from various States for upgradation of the National Highway network through widening, strengthening, improvement

of riding quality, reconstruction/rehabilitation of weak and narrow bridges, construction of bypasses etc.

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and efforts are made to accommodate all such requests from State Governments based in *inter-se* priorities of projects and overall availability of resources.

### **Constitution of the National Water Resources Council**

† \*227. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the recent past constituted a National Water Resources Council;

(b) if so, when this Council was constituted togetherwith the decisions taken so far by the Council regarding availability of water; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government to implement these decision?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURECS (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) National Water Resources Council (NWRC) was set up by the Government of India on 10th March, 1983 as a national Apex body with Prime Minister as the Chairman, Union Minister of Water Resources as Vice-Chairman, and concerned Union Ministers, Chief Minister of State Governments and Administrators/Lt. Governors of the Union Territories as Members with Secretary, Minister of Water Resources as the Secretary of the Council.

The first meeting of NWRC was held on 30th October 1985. The Council discussed the importance of Water Resources and its optimal development for the economic well-being of the country and set up a Group consisting of Union Minister of Water Resources (Chairman), Union Ministers of Agriculture, Transport and Energy and the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh (Members), with Secretary, Union Minister of Water Resources, as Secretary to prepare a National Water Policy document, having regard to the issues outlined in the agenda paper and the deliberations held during the meeting.

The second meeting of the NWRC was held on 9th September, 1987 in which the draft National Water Policy document prepared by the Group was

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.